operate within the ceiling given above.

2. All tariff increase will be subject to the prior approval of the Telecom. Authority and/or its successor.

Cellular Phone Facilities in Nagpur and Lucknow

2419. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) which are the companies engaged in providing cellular or car telephone facilities;

(b) what is the rent and rate structure for this; and

(c) by when Nagpur and Lucknow will be included in this facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Department has licenced 8 companies to operate cellular mobile telephone service, 2 each in 4 metro cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. List of licensees is given in statement-I (*see* below).

In addition to the above MTNL, Delhi is also providing car telephone service in the city of Delhi.

(b) Approved tariff for Cellular Mobile Services for the above and car telephone service by MTNL, Delhi are enclosed as statement-II & III respectively. (*see* below)

(c) The Department has already floated a tender and bids are being invited from registered Indian Companies for franchise for cellular mobile telephone service in the 25 territorial circles. Nagpur and Lucknow are included in Maharashtra & Uttar Pradesh-East circle respectively. There will be two licensees in each circle.

As per the tender condition, the prospective licensees have to cover 10% of the District HQs in the first year and 50% District HQs in the three years.

Statement-I

List of Selected bidders for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service.

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Name of the Foreign Partner	Cities
1.	M/s. Hutchison Max Telecom.	M/s. Hutchison, Whampoa	Bombay
2.	M/s. Bharti Cellular Ltd.	(i) M/s. General Mobile, U.K. (ii) S F.R. France	Delhi
3.	M/s. BPL System Projects Ltd	M/s. France Telecom	Bombay
4.	M/s. Sterling Cellular Ltd	M/s Cellular Communication International Inc. U.S.A.	Delhi
5.	M/s. Usha Martin Telecom. Ltd.	M/s Telecom., Malaysia	Calcutta
6.	M/s. Indian Telecom. Pvt. Ltd.	M/s OTC International, Australia	Calcutta
7.	M/s. Skycell Communication Pvt. Ltd	M/s Bell South, U.S.A.	Madras
8.	M/s. Mobile Telecom Service Ltd.	M/s. Vodofine, U.K.	Madras.

Statement-II

Car Mobile Radio Telephones Service Provided By MTNL-Tariff

1.	Mobile Radio Telephone Rental	:	Rs 4,000/- per month	
2.	*Call Charges*			
	(i) Mobile to fixed	:	@ 30 seconds one unit	The duration of the calls will be on air time basis
	(ii) Mobile to Mobile	:	@ 30 seconds one unit both ends	
	(iii) Fixed to Mobile	:	@ 30 seconds one unit for mobile and one call for fixed.	

NOTE: @ 30 seconds one unit on air time basis both for out going and incoming calls in addition to the charges prescribed for ISD/STD Calls.

3.	Temporary connections	:	Twice the normal rental.
4.	Casual connections	:	
	(i) 1 to 10 days	:	One half of the monthly rental
	(ii) 11 to 20 days	:	One month's rental
	(iii) 20 to 30 days		One and a half times the monthly rental.
5.	Security Deposit	:	Rs. 1 Lac payable in cash & interest free.
6.	Minimum period of hire for regular connection	:	6 months

NOTE: (1)The rental shall be recovered in advance for two months.
(2) The security Deposit shall be for the transmitter/receiver.

Statement-III

Calling tariff for the Licence of Operators for Cellular Mobile Service

1. Monthly Rental for the Service — Rs. 156/- per month.
2. Security Deposit — Rs. 3000/-
3. Installation Charges — Rs. 1200/-
4. Call charges:—

4.1 For calls originated by the Mobile subscriber:— Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call plus call charges as applicable for the fixed network for Local, STD, and ISD calls. For mobile to mobile calls within the same Cellular Service area, only air time charges will be levied.

4.2 For calls terminating on the Mobile subscriber:—Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call will be levied. No charge will be levied to the mobile subscriber if the mobile subscriber terminates an incoming call within 5 seconds.

5. Notes on tariff;

5.1 Call duration will be on air time basis for mobile subscribers.

5.2 The air time unit call shall be charged at unit rate applicable to the highest slab of the DOT's fixed net work (Rs. 1.40 per unit at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.

5.3 Call charges for the air time during peak hours shall be fixed at rates not exceeding double the rates prescribed in para 4 above. Peak hours shall be restricted upto a maximum of 4 hours per day.

5.4 Call charges for the air time during Sundays and 3 National holidays (15th August, 26 January & 2nd October) shall be half the rates prescribed in para 4 above.

5.5 For calls from mobile subscriber to the fixed net work, the Licensee shall charge the mobile subscriber at the rates prescribed by the Authority according to time and day of the call. Unit rate for such calls shall be the highest slab rate of the DOT's fixed net work (Rs. 1.40 at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.

5.6 There are no free calls to be given in the air time.

5.7 For calls orginating from the fixed net work to mobile, the mobile subscriber will be charged for the air time and DOT will not have to pay any access fee to the Cellular Operator. The air time charges will be collected by the Cellular Operator.

5.8 For mobile to mobile both caller and called party will be charged.

6. All tariff increase shall be subject to prior approval of the Authority. However, the lower rate of tariff for the

service may be charged by the Licensee from the Mobile Subscribers without prior approval of Authority.

7. the subscriber is free to procure terminal equipment from any source. The rental does not include the subscriber terminal.

Charges by A T & T for Long Distance Calls to US

2420. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the A T & T the US telecom giant, is charging less, as compared to the DOT, for long distance calls to the United States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that A T & T is able to charge less becuase their price reflects only the cost for placing calls between US and India;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that this amounts to playing unfair business practice; and

(d) if so, whether Government are contemplating to stop this pilferage leading to loss of revenue for the DOT on the one hand while unfair competitive advantage for the A T & T on the other?

THE MINSITER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) A T & T does not provide long distance calls from India to U.S.A. However, Home Direct Services have been given wherein a call can be made from India to U.S.A. and A T & T raises bill to the called party in U.S.A. Tariff to U.S. subscriber is dependent on various factors which are different in each country and are not comparable.

Preservation of Ecology

2421. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prospecting and exploitation of iron-ore, coal and other minerals have posed a grave threat to the ecology by way of endangering wild life and denuding of forests;

(b) if so, which are the main wild life sanctuaries and reserves facing the problem; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to preserve the ecology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the event of damage to wildlife habitats and obstruction to the movement of wildlife, the exploitation of ores and minerals and large scale prospecting in and around wildlife habitats can pose a potentital threat to the ecology of wildlife. Some of the main wildlife sanctuaries and reserves reported to have been affected by quarrying and exploitation of mineral wealth in the past are Sariska Tiger Reserve, Buxa Tiger Reserve, Ranthambore National Park & Tiger Reserve, and Valmiki Tiger Reserve.

(c) With a view to conserve and protect ecology, Government have issued the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification dated 27th January, 1994, amended on 4th May 1994. It has been *inter-alia* stipulated that mining projects for major minerals with leases more than 5 ha., as well as prospecting and exploration of major minerals in areas above 500 ha., are required to carry out the impact assessment study which *inter-alia* includes study on wildlife and forests, if applicable and no such activities shall be undertaken till it has been accorded clearance from environmetal angle by the